



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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TWO CALIFORNIA MEN CONVICTED ON CHILD SEX TOURISM CHARGES ORDERED TO PAY RESTITUTION

Compensation is among first ordered in overseas sex traveler cases

LOS ANGELES - Two Southern California men convicted in connection with separate child sex tourism investigations by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have been ordered to pay restitution in what are believed to be among the first monetary awards imposed in such cases. Both men admitted traveling to the Philippines to have sex with disadvantaged youths.

At a hearing in Los Angeles this morning, Edilberto Datan, 61, was ordered to pay \$16,475 in restitution to eight of his teenage victims in the Philippines. The retired auditor pleaded guilty in March to engaging in illicit sexual conduct with minors and producing child pornography outside the United States. Datan was sentenced in June to 17 years in federal prison and lifetime supervision.

Under an agreement worked out by the U.S. Attorney's Office and ICE, the payment of the restitution is being overseen by the international humanitarian organization, World Vision. The money will provide for two years of medical, psychological, and occupational therapy for the youths, who were 14 and 15 years of age when the crimes occurred. According to court papers filed today, all eight boys continue to suffer mentally and emotionally from the sexual abuse Datan committed during his Philippine vacation.

Meanwhile, in San Diego yesterday, Bernard Lawrence Russell, 38, was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$25,000 in restitution to help Filipino victims of child exploitation. Under an agreement worked out by the U.S. Attorney's Office and ICE, the restitution payments will be overseen by a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem who will work with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity section under the Department of Justice to administer the funds.

Russell pleaded guilty in April to child sex tourism charges after admitting he had engaged in illicit sexual conduct with 13 and 14-year-old Filipino girls during trips he took to the Philippines in 2002. One of Russell's victims described how she was introduced to the San Diego man by a pimp in Manila shortly after Russell arrived in the Philippines in October 2002. After telling Russell that she was 13-years-old, he paid her approximately \$30 to go to a motel and engage in various sexual acts.

The men's arrests are part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to identify, investigate, arrest and, in the case of foreign nationals, deport child sex predators. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,200 individuals nationwide, including more than 1,600 in California.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.